Message

From: O'shea, Marie [OShea.Marie@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/12/2017 6:06:41 PM
To: Adams, Darvene [Adams.Darvene@epa.gov]; Barnhart, Heather [Barnhart.Heather@epa.gov]; Boucher, Aimee [Boucher.Aimee@epa.gov]; Bourodimos, Lampros [Bourodimos.Lampros@epa.gov]; Castro, Marina [Castro.Marina@epa.gov]; Cutt, Diana [Cutt.Diana@epa.gov]; Ferreira, Gina [Ferreira.Gina@epa.gov]; Gaylord, Brent [Gaylord.Brent@epa.gov]; Huertas, Evelyn [Huertas.Evelyn@epa.gov]; Kieber, Rabi [Kieber.Rabi@epa.gov]; Kubik, Kevin [Kubik.Kevin@epa.gov]; Lopez, Jaime [Lopez.Jaime@epa.gov]; Maddaloni, Mark [Maddaloni.Mark@epa.gov]; Mehta-Sampath, Ameesha [Mehta-Sampath.Ameesha@epa.gov]; Mishkin, Katherine [Mishkin.Katherine@epa.gov]; Nace, Charles [Nace.Charles@epa.gov]; Nelson, Esther [Nelson.Esther@epa.gov]; Nielson, Irene [Nielson.Irene@epa.gov]; Nyman, Robert [Nyman.Robert@epa.gov]; Palagian, Evangelia [Palagian.Evangelia@epa.gov]; Pensak, Mindy [Pensak.Mindy@epa.gov]; Saeed, Muhammad [Saeed.Muhammad@epa.gov]; Saghafi, Farnaz [Saghafi.Farnaz@epa.gov]; Salkie, Diane [Salkie.Diane@epa.gov]; Sareen, Neha [sareen.neha@epa.gov]; Willis, Kevin [Willis.Kevin@epa.gov]; Wilson, Stephanie-M [Wilson.Stephanie-M@epa.gov]; Wojtenko, Izabela [Wojtenko.Izabela@epa.gov]
CC: Williamson, Anahita [Williamson.Anahita@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Weekly Compass: December 12, 2017

fyi

Marie L. O'Shea, Ph.D.
Regional Science Liaison to EPA's Office of Research and Development
US EPA Region 2
290 Broadway, NY, NY 10007
(212) 637-3585 (M-W)
(917) 365-2928 (Th)
oshea.marie@epa.gov

From: EPAResearchCompass
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 12:01 PM
To: ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs <ORDALL_Feds_and_NonFeds_and_RSLs@epa.gov>
Cc: Lincoln, Larry <Lincoln.Larry@epa.gov>; Barnett, Felicia <Barnett.Felicia@epa.gov>; Carter, Bobbi <Carter.Bobbi@epa.gov>; Gettle, Jeaneanne <Gettle.Jeaneanne@epa.gov>; Taylor, Dawn <Taylor.Dawn@epa.gov>; Klinger, Adam <Klinger.Adam@epa.gov>; Widener, Charles (Chuck) <Widener.Charles@epa.gov>; Liljegren, Jennifer <Liljegren.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Pollard, Solomon <Pollard.Solomon@epa.gov>
Subject: Weekly Compass: December 12, 2017

Weekly Update: 12/12/2017

Welcome to the Weekly Compass, your gateway to information about recent and upcoming ORD activities. If you have ideas for the Weekly Compass, please send them to the editors. To see past issues, visit the Weekly Compass archive on ORD@work.

Weekly Note from Jennifer

ORDers- Last week, I sent out a note describing our research efforts related to per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Check out the Agency's press release about the effort we're co-leading with the Office of Water to address this issue. An action plan will be due to the Deputy Administrator by mid-January. All of this will be done in close coordination with our state, tribal, and federal partners.

On Friday December 15th, Dr. Richard Yamada will visit Japan's Ministry of the Environment in Tokyo and meet with Ms. Mimi Nameki, Director for the Office of Environmental Research and Technology, General Policy Division, Minister's Secretariat. Richard is excited to discuss research priorities, best practices and learn how new technologies are being incorporated into the Ministry's work.

EPA held a public meeting yesterday to discuss options for the chemical pre-prioritization process in DC. ORD has been actively involved in the development of the discussion document for pre-prioritization and has drafted a key chapter in that document describing the systematic integration of traditional and new approach methods for chemical evaluation. ORD scientists and leadership participated and presented materials at this meeting.

This week, we have scientists from throughout ORD attending two important scientific meetings. The Society for Risk Analysis meeting is in Arlington, VA from the 10th -14th, and the American Geophysical Union meeting is in New Orleans, LA from the 11th-15th. In addition to ORD

presentations and posters at these meetings, ORD will have an exhibit booth at both with demonstrations and handouts.

Lastly, I would like to introduce a new Weekly Compass feature: the Weekly Wow. This week I would like to highlight Gary Ankley for his much deserved Presidential Distinguished Rank Award. Thank you for your important contributions to science. If you have someone you want to highlight for their good work in a future Weekly Wow, please email the editors. - *Jennifer*

Quick Updates

- Take the 2017 Annual Ethics Training.
- Don't forget to check out the open opportunities on Talent Hub!
- You can donate to your favorite charities through CFC and help ORD reach its 2017 goal of $61,294! Register now and make your contribution online.
- You can read the This Week @ EPA newsletter here.
- Upcoming webinars:
    - Rebroadcast of State Acceptance of UV Disinfection Technologies: Tuesday, December 12, 2-3:30 pm ET
    - Evolving Through Change: Wednesday, December 13, 10-11:30 am ET & Thursday, December 14, 1-2:30 pm ET
    - Finishing First: How to Beat the Competition to the Position You Want: Wednesday, December 13 1-2:30 pm ET & Thursday, December 14, 10-11:30 am ET
    - EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System (CADDIS): Wednesday, December 13, 3-4 pm ET
    - ORD-NWP Internal Workshop on Microplastics in Water: Thursday, December 14, 9 am-noon ET
    - Computational Toxicology Communities of Practice: High-Throughput H295R Steroidogenesis Assay: Thursday, December 14, 11-12 pm ET
    - Lean Lunch and Learn: Identifying Value-Added and Non-Value-Added Activities: Thursday, December 14, 12–1 pm ET, in-person and Via Adobe Connect
    - Informational Webinar for Advanced Septic System Nitrogen Sensor Challenge: Phase II, Prototype Testing: Monday, December 18, 10- 12 pm ET
    - Importance of Non-Chemical Stressors on Children's Health and Well-Being: Tuesday, December 19, 3-4:30 pm ET

Faces of ORD: NCEA's Tom Luben

In the Lab:

ORD Supporting Vermont Ricin Response

Betty Miller, a 70 year old resident of the Wake Robin retirement community in Shelburne, VT (suburb of Burlington) was arrested after she admitted to making ricin and then testing its effectiveness by putting it in the food and beverages of three other residents of the community. Ms. Miller stated that she made ricin to poison herself. This weekend, EPA was asked to assist

cleaning up Ms. Miller's residence. ORD was asked by the Office of Emergency Management to provide technical support related to analysis of surface samples that are anticipated to be taken this week. ORD helped select the sample processing and analysis method, using its expertise to assist in a method that met the sensitivity and selectivity requirements with the sample analysis cost and time. ORD recommended use of its "Sample Processing Approach for Detection of Ricin in Surface Samples" and will provide technical support to the laboratory analyzing the samples, likely Edgewood Biological and Chemical Center, in the coming days.

Integrated Science Assessment on Sulfur Oxides

On December 8, the Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) on Sulfur Oxides (SOx) was released. The document was revised in response to comments from the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and the public, and the CASAC review is complete. This final ISA represents the Agency's latest evaluation of the scientific literature on potential human health effects associated with sulfur oxides. The main finding of the ISA is that there is a causal relationship between short-term sulfur dioxide exposure and respiratory effects, particularly in individuals with asthma. The SOx ISA, in conjunction with additional technical assessments, will provide the scientific basis for EPA's decision regarding the adequacy of the current primary standard for SOx to protect human health.

Region 8 Technical Support on Arsenic in Yellowstone Public Water System

Yellowstone National Park has naturally occurring arsenic in their public water system (Old Faithful Water System), which provides water to about 900-5,500 people in the park per day. Region 8 contacted NRMRL's Darren Lytle and Mike Schock for assistance in reducing the arsenic levels below the maximum contaminant level. On December 6, Darren and Mike participated in a call with Region 8 and the Old Faithful Water System Operator to review the water system's arsenic removal plan and schedule.

Technical Support Request from U.S. Army on Lead Sampling

The Drinking Water Quality Branch of the U.S. Army Public Health Center contacted NRMRL's Darren Lytle and Mike Schock regarding a lead sampling effort, requesting ORD's involvement and expertise. The Army has been collecting drinking water samples for lead in schools, day care centers, and some housing on bases and, as of the end of FY17, they have over 17,000 samples.

Interagency Meetings on Oil Pollution Research, Washington, DC

Tomorrow, ORD, OLEM and OITA, will participate in a meeting with representatives from Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), including Ken Lee, National Senior Science Advisor for Oil Spills Research, Preparedness and Response, and Patrice Simon, Director of DFO Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss formal intergovernmental partnerships between EPA and DFO Canada for oil spills research. December 13-14, ORD will attend the quarterly Interagency Coordinating Committee for Oil Pollution Research (ICCOPR) meeting to deliver FY18 research product updates and meet with OLEM.

Patent Issued for Microbial Source Tracking Technology.

NRMRL's Orin Shanks received a patent for his technology for fecal source tracking. The patent, titled "Host-associated DNA sequences, primers, and probes for PCR-based identification of dog fecal pollution sources," was issued on November 14. The patent describes microbial source tracking methods for the characterization of dog fecal waste in environmental samples. Orin's research, conducted under SSWR, was published in *Environmental Science & Technology* in 2014, with co-authors Cathy Kelty and Karen White

Meeting and Visit from China Ministry of Environmental Protection

This week, EPA's Research Triangle Park facility is hosting officials from the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences. The visit is part of continuing meetings to respond to the interest of Chinese officials in how EPA is structured and, particularly, in how research laboratories are organized to support the important statutory missions of the Agency. Presentations and tours will focus on chemical risk assessment and risk management, including EPA research laboratory contributions to implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act and other statutes.

Field Work at Oklahoma State University

This week, NRMRL's Steve Hutchins, Mark White, and Justin Groves will conduct monthly monitoring of wells and lysimeters at OSU's South Central Research Station. This work is in support of the SSWR Nutrient Sources and Contributions to Impairment Project, which focuses on transport of water and nutrients in an agricultural field undergoing different fertilizer application strategies. This project and the associated monitoring work have been ongoing since 2016

Update on Support to Region 6 and OK-DEQ on Dewey, Oklahoma Response

EPA Region 6, ORD, and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have been working together in response to multiple cases of girls (ages ~14-18) falling ill in Dewey, Oklahoma. While the cause for their illnesses is unknown, EPA Region 6 was asked to perform a series of environmental tests at their high school. ORD previously provided advice regarding selection of methods to analyze metals; semi-volatile organic compounds; and pesticides in water, air, and on surfaces. ORD is currently supporting Region 6 through review of the data they collected through air and surfaces wipes, and is ready to provide additional assistance, specifically interpreting and developing Regional Screening Levels through their Superfund Technical Support Center if needed.

NRMRL Provided Tour for French Water Cluster Visitor

Last week, Jean-Loic Carre, General Manager of Aqua Valley, a French water technology cluster, visited Cincinnati to meet with representatives from Confluence, a water technology innovation cluster in the Ohio River Valley Region, and ORD's Technology Innovation Cluster Program. NRMRL's Dan Murray and Julius Enriquez participated. As part of his visit, NRMRL and NHSRC representatives provided Jean-Loic with a tour of EPA's Test and Evaluation Facility. The French cluster brings together more than 140 members, including large businesses, small and medium-sized enterprises, research laboratories and organizations, and academia throughout three regions of France to create economic value through innovative projects in water.

ORD Training EPA Superfund Project Managers

NHEERL's Mark Johnson led a training session at last week's National Association of Remedial Managers' Conference in Denver, Colorado. The national training brings together Superfund project managers from all EPA regional offices to learn the latest technologies and methods for decontaminating Superfund and other hazardous sites. Johnson shared information about using biochar for remediation of sites contaminated with toxic metals.

Interagency Action Group Discussed Asthma Disparity Strategies

Yesterday, David Diaz-Sanchez, Acting Director of NHEERL's Environmental Public Health Division, represented ORD at the Asthma Disparities Working Group, the interagency group convened to address strategies in the Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities. The group includes representatives from more than a dozen agencies.

Its purpose is to coordinate research to leverage resources and actions to address asthma disparities.

Dover Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Project Meeting

On November 28, the EPA Leadership Team for the Dover, Delaware Rapid HIA Project met with state, county, and academic partners. This project explores the social, economic, and health benefits that could result from the redevelopment of a brownfield site in downtown Dover into a hydroponic/aquaponics mixed-use food production facility. At the meeting, a draft HIA report was presented and discussed and next steps for local partners were developed. Dover's Mayor, Robin Christiansen, joined the group after the meeting to greet and thank everyone for their participation. The Dover HIA Team extended their gratitude to the EPA Leadership Team for their work on the project and the draft final report.

Harmful Algal Bloom Grants Awarded

ORD awarded two grants under the Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms RFA for a total of $1.4 million for research supporting innovative research on the prediction, prevention, control and mitigation of freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). This research also supports greater understanding in the drivers, life-cycle patterns, fate of, and effects from less common, less studied, and emerging freshwater HAB species and toxins. Grantees include Iowa State University and Ohio State University. Iowa State University's project explores genetic and environmental factors controlling the occurrence of HABs in Iowa's lakes. The project will produce tools and databases that will be accessible and useful for state/local decision makers and managers dealing with HABs. Ohio State University's project is developing a watershed classification system to diagnose and manage HABs in the upper Ohio River basin. The focus of this project is to determine characteristics related to distribution, duration, and intensity of HABs and develop a classification system to predict and prevent HABs.

NCEA and National Tribal Toxic Council

Tomorrow, NCEA will engage the NTTC and present on several aspects or emerging issues in risk assessment, engagement with TSCA, and ExpoBox. ExpoBox is EPA's online resource for exposure assessors which provides access to more than 800 databases, models, guidance documents, and other resources that are useful for conducting an exposure assessment.

Decontamination Workshop Focused on Plum Island

Last week, NHSRC researchers Joseph Wood and Shawn Ryan, and staff from OLEM and Region 7, participated in a Biocontainment Facility Decontamination Workshop held by DHS S&T in Washington, DC. DHS S&T is responsible for the safe, secure operation of biocontainment laboratories, including the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in NY. The workshop discussed methods for decontamination and decommissioning of biocontainment facilities such as Plum Island. Participants evaluated existing and novel techniques that reduce risk, improve safety, have faster implementation, and are more cost-effective. The workshop brought together representatives from federal agencies with relevance in the operation of biocontainment facilities or direct experience with decontamination and decommissioning methods. EPA staff presented on research and experience related to decontamination of facilities contaminated with biological agents.

Presenting Exposure Tools to OCHP

Tomorrow, NCEA's Linda Phillips will present some exposure tools and discuss their application to children's health at a seminar for the Office of Children's Health Protection. The tools that will be covered include: the Exposure Factors Handbook, Child-specific Example Exposure Scenarios document, Exposure Factors Interactive Resource for Scenarios Tool (ExpoFIRST), Food

Commodity Intake Database (FCID) Consumption Calculator, and ExpoBox: a toolbox for exposure assessors.

Region 2 Support

The Superfund Technical Support Center (STSC) has been contacted by Region 2 to evaluate the suitability of surrogate chemicals for chemicals without Regional Screening Levels (RSLs). NCEA's Drs. Lucy Lizarraga and Dan Petersen are currently evaluating the toxicological similarity of alpha and gamma chlordane with technical chlordane, and Endosulfan II and technical Endosulfan.

Grantee Publication on Air Pollutants

Emissions of air pollutants that contain or are precursors of fine particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$) have declined over the course of several decades, following the implementation of local, state, and federal air quality policies. However, estimating the corresponding change in population exposure and $PM_{2.5}$-attributable risk of death prior to the year 2000 is made difficult by the lack of PM2.5 monitoring data. In a publication from STAR grantees at the University of Washington, a researcher at Seoul National University and a scientist in OAR, used a new technique to estimate historical $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations and estimated the effects of changes in $PM_{2.5}$ population exposures on mortality in adults, and on life expectancy at birth from 1980–2010. The investigators estimated annual mean county-level $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations in 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. The researchers used concentration–response coefficients from previous studies to estimate changes in the numbers of deaths and in life years and life expectancy at birth, attributable to changes in $PM_{2.5}$. The results show that between 1980 and 2010, population-weighted $PM_{2.5}$ exposures fell by about half, and the estimated number of excess deaths declined by about a third. The States of California, Virginia, New Jersey, and Georgia had some of the largest estimated reductions in $PM_{2.5}$-attributable deaths. The researchers estimate that if exposures had been held constant at 1980 levels, people born in 2050 would experience an ~1-y increase in life expectancy at birth, and that there would be a cumulative gain of 4.4 million life years among adults 30 years of age and older. The investigators conclude by suggesting that that declines in $PM_{2.5}$ exposures between 1980 and 2010 have benefitted public health.

Grantee Publication on Autism Spectrum Disorder

SHC supports research to help improve the scientific basis for decisions on health and environmental issues. The grantee publication, Autism-Specific Maternal Anti-Fetal Brain Autoantibodies are Associated with Metabolic Conditions arose from the SHC-funded Children's Center at UC-Davis. Researchers from the NIEHS/EPA Children's Center at the University of California, Davis investigated whether maternal autoantibodies specific to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) were associated with metabolic conditions, including diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. Participants in the study were mothers of 2- to 5-year-old children with ASD. Prevalence of anti-fetal brain autoantibodies was higher among mothers with diabetes, hypertension, or overweight compared to healthy mothers. Among mothers whose children exhibited severe ASD, those diagnosed with type 2 or gestational diabetes were 2.7-fold more likely to produce anti-fetal brain autoantibodies. These results suggest that some mothers of children with ASD and pregnancies complicated by metabolic conditions may be more susceptible to producing anti-fetal brain autoantibodies.

In the Office:

ORD Purchase Card System to Retire

The Agency is in the final stages of retiring and replacing its Lotus Notes applications. One of the last remaining applications is the ORD Purchase Card System. OSIM has been working with OARM and OEI to implement a replacement of the purchase card system. Please visit the ORD Purchase Card Migration website for the upcoming training schedule, additional details on the migration to the new agency system, and future updates. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Laws or Valerie Brandon.

Direct Deposit Date Change to January 2, 2018

Employees will see their direct deposit for the pay period ending Dec. 23 on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, instead of Friday, Dec. 29, 2017. This will ensure that, for tax purposes, earnings are reported in the appropriate calendar year. The "official pay date" for the agency is the second Tuesday following the end of the pay period, in this case Jan. 2. Electronic Funds Transactions (EFT) are normally the first Friday of the pay period, which is why most employees typically see direct deposits post every other Friday rather than on the "official pay date" of every other Tuesday. The agency's payroll provider is delaying the EFT date for the pay period ending Dec. 23. Please make any necessary adjustments to automatic payments or transfers in your bank account to accommodate this one-time change in the pay deposit schedule. If you have any additional questions, please send your inquiries to the System Help desk at 202-564-6236 or email HRPayHelp@epa.gov.

New Character Count Requirement for LAN Passwords

Beginning tomorrow, EPA employees changing their LAN password will need to comply with new character count requirements. The current eight-character password is being increased to a minimum of 12 characters with the following requirements:

- Password length must be a minimum of 12 characters and contain characters from three of the following four categories:
  - At least one digit (0-9).
  - At least one symbol (~, !, @, #, $, %, +, <, >, /, ?).
  - At least one uppercase English letter (A-Z).
  - At least one lowercase English letter (a-z).
- Must **not** contain your username, dictionary words, simple words, or any part of your full name that exceeds two characters (example: cannot be 'SMI', if your last name is 'SMITH').
- Must differ from previous password by four characters.
- Must differ from previous 24 passwords.

For more details, visit the New LAN Password Update web page.

Susan Bodine Confirmed as the Assistant Administrator for OECA

Last week, the U.S. Senate confirmed Susan Bodine to serve as the Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Susan's career working on environmental issues in both government and the private sector spans close to 30 years. She has served as Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and previously worked for the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. From 2006 to 2009, Susan served as EPA's Assistant Administrator for OSWER. Susan has also practiced environmental law at Covington and Burling LLP and at Barnes and Thornburg LLP. With Susan's confirmation, Larry Starfield will return to his previous position as Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for OECA.

Anne Idsal Appointed Region 6 Administrator

Anne Idsal will join EPA on December 18. Anne joins the Agency having spent her career working for the Texas state government. Since 2015, she has served as chief clerk and deputy land commissioner for the Texas General Land Office (GLO). She previously served as the

general counsel to GLO. Prior to joining the GLO, Anne served as general counsel to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), she also served as a special advisor to the commissioner. With Anne's arrival, Sam Coleman will return to his permanent position as Region 6 deputy regional administrator.

Accolades:

Congrats to Gary Ankley for 2017 Presidential Distinguished Rank Award

Last week, the Administrator announced EPA's recipients of the 2017 Presidential Rank Awards. Established in 1978, the Presidential Rank Awards recognize federal senior executive employees who have achieved the highest level of sustained performance. The rigorous award-selection process requires nominees to meet stringent personal and professional standards before receiving final approval from the president. EPA's Distinguished Rank recipient is Gerald Ankley, a research toxicologist in NHEERL. This Distinguished Rank award is especially prestigious, it is awarded to only 1% of the career SES or SL/ST across the federal government.

Dr. Ankley is easily one of the most respected federal scientists in all of government. It is impossible to describe the stature of his work as a scientist without giving some statistics to illustrate several points. Dr. Ankley has authored (or coauthored) nearly 500 publications and his works have been cited in about 14,000 other publications. The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) has calculated an "H-Index" (a measure of impact and stature of author publications) for Dr. Ankley of 62. To provide some context to that measure, when the H-Index was first introduced in 2005 the median H-Index for physicists for the Nobel peace prize was 35 and newly elected members of the National Academy of Sciences had a median H-value of 41. Since 1992, Dr. Ankley has received 76 EPA awards. Dr. Ankley has received "Exceptional Papers" and "Best Paper" awards from publications in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and the Society of Toxicology. In 2013, the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Awarded Dr. Ankley with a Presidential Citation for Exemplary Service and in 2014 he was awarded the prestigious Charter SETAC Fellow Award given to recognize members demonstrating significant long-term scientific or science policy contributions and service and leadership within organization. Dr. Ankley has held 9 different editorial board positions in toxicological journals. He has served on 30 different national and international committees as an expert on the toxic effects of chemicals in aquatic environments. As a recognized expert in his field he has led, organized and participated in 87 International and national workshops and has been an invited speaker over 120 times. What truly has set Dr. Ankley apart from other scientists is his ability to mentor and develop leadership and scientific excellence in others. He has advised and mentored over 20 postdoctoral positions who have gone on to become very well established as experts themselves with high stature and credibility. Congratulations, Gary, and thank you for all you have done for ORD and our country.

EPA's 2017 Meritorious Rank recipients are Andrew Sawyers, Director of the Office of Wastewater Management in the Office of Water, and Walker Smith, Director of the Office of Global Affairs and Policy in the Office International and Tribal Affairs.

NRMRL Researcher Receives SETAC Fellow Appointment

Tim Canfield was recognized as a Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Fellow at the SETAC North America 38th Annual Meeting in November. The SETAC Fellows Award recognizes members demonstrating significant long-term scientific or science policy contributions and service and leadership within SETAC. The identification and appointment of fellow status is

intended to provide additional recognition of excellence and contributions of SETAC members to ecotoxicology, environmental chemistry, risk assessment and life cycle assessment. Tim has been a member of SETAC for over 25 years. He has previously served as SETAC North America President and President of the SETAC World Council. Currently, he serves as the co-editor-in-chief of the SETAC Globe.

NHEERL Scientists Having Substantial Impact on Neurotoxicology Field

The journal *Neurotoxicology* recently highlighted articles most cited by investigators around the world, and the results show that NHEERL remains a leader in this area.

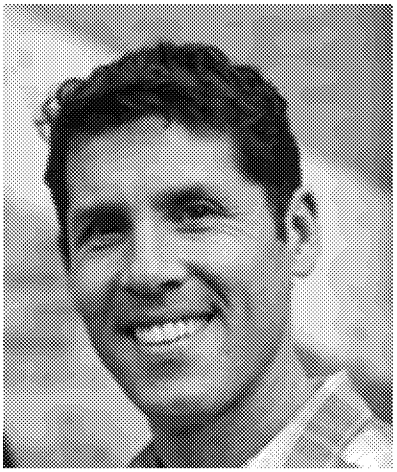
- *Top 25 most downloaded articles in the last 90 days:*
  - Developing and applying the adverse outcome pathway concept for understanding and predicting neurotoxicity, March 2017, co-authored by the Integrated Systems Toxicology Division's Timothy Shafer.
- *Top 25 most cited articles published since 2012:*
  - Developmental thyroid hormone disruption: Prevalence, environmental contaminants and neurodevelopmental consequences, August 2012, co-authored by the Toxicity Assessment Division's Mary E. Gilbert.
  - Evaluation of multi-well microelectrode arrays for neurotoxicity screening using a chemical training set, October 2012, co-authored by the ISTD's Timothy Shafer.

In the Community:

EPA-RTP STEM Outreach Program

- Yesterday: EPA provided two science fair judges at the Chesterbrook Academy Science Fair in Cary. EPA presented *Generate: The Energy Game* at Emerald Pond, a retirement community in Durham. EPA will also participate in Citizen Schools culmination: students' WOW! Presentations at Lowes Grove Middle School in Durham.
- Today: EPA will present hands-on STEM activities for 4th and 5th graders at W.G. Pearson Elementary School in Durham.
- Tomorrow: EPA will host its 14th Annual EPA Science Day at Y.E. Smith Elementary School in Durham. The program brings together more than a dozen EPA scientists and eight community volunteers to share hands-on science with Kindergarten thru 5th-grade students.

Faces of ORD: NCEA's Tom Luben



Name: Tom Luben
Job/Position: Epidemiologist
L/C/O or Program: NCEA-RTP/EMAG in RTP

1. When did you start at EPA? I started just over a decade ago, in May 2007.

2. What's the most interesting thing about your job? Integrating and synthesizing a large body of data into a clear and concise characterization of the evidence – it is a lot like detective work.

3. What's the most interesting thing in your workspace? Artwork from my kids

4. What's your favorite thing to do (besides come to work)? Anything that allows me to be outside – hiking, gardening, yard work

5. What's your favorite lunch spot? Most days I eat at my desk, but I'm fond of Sarah's Empanadas and Backyard BBQ.

6. If you could have one superpower, what would it be? Teleportation – I love visiting different places, but loathe actually having to get there

7. What is your favorite fall activity? Fall is my favorite time to go to the North Carolina beaches – the weather is still great and there are no crowds

8. Describe any steps you take in your daily life to protect the environment: One small step our family decided on a few years ago was switching to cloth napkins instead of paper napkins or paper towels.